

# English

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## Advanced Journalism I

Elective                      Full Year  
Grade(s) 11-12  
Honors or A Level  
Prerequisite:  
Journalism and teacher  
recommendation

This course is designed for students who have already taken the basic Journalism course but who wish to expand their experiences in journalism. Students will learn not only to identify newsworthy stories but also to pursue the necessary information to be used in well-developed news/feature stories through responsible interviewing techniques learned in their basic Journalism courses. Editorials of criticism or interpretation and other stories will be developed and submitted for publication in the *Town Crier* (high school paper). Advanced Journalism students will be responsible for selecting topics for their articles, peer editing, and reviewing them with the teacher before submitting for publication in press-ready condition. Honors requirements will be given in writing to the students at the beginning of the year.

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## Advanced Journalism II

Elective                      Full Year  
Grade(s) 12  
Honors or A Level  
Prerequisite:  
Advanced Journalism I and teacher  
recommendation

Advanced Journalism II is an elective course designed for seniors who have already taken the basic Journalism and Advanced Journalism I courses and wish to expand their journalistic experiences an additional year. Only students recommended by the instructor may take Advanced Journalism II. Students in Advanced Journalism II are expected to serve as editors of the *Town Crier*, present lessons to the Journalism class, and serve as mentors to the new staff members of the newspaper. Advanced Journalism II students are expected to choose an independent project from one of three choices: 1) Research college journalism programs and prepare a written report or presentation on his or her findings. 2) Select a biography or autobiography of a journalist and prepare a written report or presentation on his or her life. 3) Contact a local journalist and arrange to shadow that person for a day; prepare a discussion and share your notes, pictures and findings with the class. Honors requirements will be given in writing to the students at the beginning of the year.

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## Advanced Placement English (Language)

Required                      Full Year  
Grade(s) 11  
Advanced Placement  
Prerequisite:  
Teacher recommendation and  
qualifying PSAT score

Advanced Placement Language and Composition (11th grade) is a course in effective writing and critical reading. Writing skills are analyzed in a systematic way by studying a variety of prose. Students assess prose writing by examining an author's use of diction, syntax, tone, structure, purpose, and meaning. Attention will be centered on developing a personal rhetorical style that cultivates strong persuasive writing skills. Students will analyze writings through close reading drills, and the lessons learned will be transferred to their own writing. Emphasis will be focused on knowing how to select and use appropriate modes of writing. This course will use the American literature course as a base, however, it will require more reading and focused writing than honor's level English. Additional summer reading is required. Students taking this course make a commitment to take the AP exam in May. Eligibility: an "A" average in Honor's English 10, a minimum PSAT score of 57 on both Critical Reading (CR) and Writing Skills (W).

# English

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## Advanced Placement English (Literature)

Required Full Year  
Grade(s)12  
Advanced Placement  
Prerequisite:  
Teacher recommendation and  
qualifying SAT score

This is a college level course for students in their last year of high school who have an interest in English and are recommended by their Grade 11 English teachers. Students wishing to take the Advanced Placement course must have an "A-" or better average in Honors English 11, an "A" in Grade 11 English A Level or a "B" or better in AP Language, and have a minimum SAT score of 62 on both Critical Reading (CR) and Writing Skills (W). The course combines lectures, seminars, short research projects, and critical papers based on readings from major British and world authors. Emphasis is placed on pre-critical discussion and writing with the goal of increasing students' ability to explain clearly, cogently, even elegantly, what they understand about literary works and why they interpret them as they do. Additional summer reading is required. Students taking this course make a commitment to take the AP exam in May.

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## Creative Writing

Elective Semester  
Grade(s)10-12  
Honors or A Level  
Prerequisite:  
None

This one-semester course is open to students in Grades 10-12. Emphasis is placed on fiction, poetry, drama, and journal writing. Students write and peer edit each day. Honors credit will require additional independent work of honors quality; written expectations will be given to students at the beginning of the semester.

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## English 10

Required Full Year  
Grade(s)10  
A, B, and Honors  
Prerequisite:  
Teacher recommendation

Tenth grade English is a college level course which reviews and strengthens previously acquired language skills while introducing more sophisticated concepts. Students analyze the elements of fiction in such works as Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, and Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird. The study of multicultural literature continues with Soto's A Summer Life and with numerous poems and nonfiction pieces in the reading anthology. Vocabulary and spelling units require weekly, cumulative quizzes, and the focus in grammar is an intensive study of mechanics. Honors level students produce a "controlled" research paper. Writing for all students focuses on diction (effective, appropriate, rich vocabulary), coherency, organization, and providing thoughtful commentary about textual evidence.

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## English 12

Required Full Year  
Grade(s)12  
Honors or A Level  
Prerequisite:  
Teacher recommendation

Twelfth grade English is a college level course that focuses on British and World Literature and includes the reading analysis of either Shakespeare's Hamlet or Macbeth. The interpretative aspects of symbolism, theme, figurative language, and style are emphasized. In writing, students produce progressively longer and more sophisticated expository writing, with explicit instruction around transitions, tone, and employing rhetorical strategies like repetition, understatement, and syntactical variation. Research skills are reviewed and a substantial paper is produced. College application essays are stressed during first semester and the twenty-minute essay is practiced for the SAT II writing test. Vocabulary study continues, and the study of grammar culminates with a unit on usage.

# English

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## English 9

Required  
Grade(s)9  
A, B, and Honors  
Prerequisite:  
Teacher recommendation

Full Year

Ninth grade English is a college level course in which students read, discuss, and write about various literary genre, including such works as Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet and Cisneros' The House on Mango Street. Students complete a mythology unit; study fifteen new vocabulary words per week; and in grammar, focus on parts of speech, phrases, and clauses. Writing effective responses to open response questions is explicitly taught, and there is an emphasis on providing apt textual references to support ideas in both writing and discussion. One quarter of the year is spent on a communication unit that emphasizes both speaking and listening skills. Honors level students produce a lengthy biography assignment. All ninth grade students participate in a Performance Assessment at the end of the second semester.

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## English11/American Studies

Required  
Grade(s)11  
Honors or A Level  
Prerequisite:  
Teacher recommendation

Full Year

All the traditional aspects of U.S. History and English are parts of this course. Using a thematic approach, students study these subjects with two teachers. Classes are scheduled during consecutive class periods when possible. This course provides students with insight into the relationships among our literary, cultural, artistic, philosophical, and scientific traditions, as well as their connections to the underlying concepts of man and history that have formed a uniquely diverse but common American heritage. Each student will learn techniques of research and present findings orally and in writing. There may be some common assignments and a variety of assessment tools are used. All students will participate in a Performance Assessment at the end of the second semester.

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## Journalism

Elective  
Grade(s)10-12  
Honors or A Level  
Prerequisite:  
None

Full Year

This course involves a systematic analysis of newspaper, television, and radio reporting through a study of news forms, editorial techniques, and feature writing styles. Students will be involved in all phases of school newspaper production, including writing, editing, typing and printing. This course is open to students of varying interests and abilities in Grades 10-12. Honors credit requires additional independent work of honors quality; written expectations will be given to students at the beginning of the year.

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